

MECHANISM FOR QUICKLY REMOVING AN ELECTRONIC DEVICE FROM PC HAVING A SMALLER CASE

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates to detaching mechanisms and more particularly to an improved mechanism capable of quickly removing an electronic device from a PC (personal computer) having a smaller case.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 A PC having a smaller case is gaining popularity among users due to its small size, less space occupation, and being as powerful as a conventional desktop computer by installing electronic devices such as CD-ROM drive, hard disk, fan, etc. within the smaller case.

 Thus, it is very important to customize the limited space of the PC having a
15 smaller case for accommodating the above electronic devices therein since the PC having a smaller case only has a small internal space. Further, the arrangement of the electronic devices installed in the PC having a smaller case is very critical in both assembling the components in the assembly line and doing maintenance in the future. Typically, a plurality of screws are used to
20 fasten each electronic device in a conformed frame of the smaller case of the PC for installing the electronic device therein.

 However, the above technique of using a plurality of screws to fasten each
 electronic device in the conformed frame of the case has a couple of
 drawbacks. One drawback is that in a case of removing a malfunctioned
25 electronic device for replacement or upgrading, a user has to sequentially detach the case and the panels, unfasten the screws from the frame of the electronic device by means of a screw driver, and finally detach the electronic device from the case. To the contrary, while installing an electronic device in

the frame, a user has to sequentially insert the electronic device into the frame, fasten a plurality of screws at the frame by means of a screw driver, and finally assemble the case and the panels again. In view of the above, it is apparent that the assembling process is very tedious and time consuming within the narrow internal space of the case, and the electronic devices is also easily damaged during the assembling process. Moreover, the assembling speed in the assembly line will also become slow due to the narrow internal space of the case. Therefore, it is impossible to either quickly remove an electronic device from the small case of the PC or install the same therein by the prior technique of using screws to fasten or unfasten the electronic device to or from the PC having a smaller case.

Thus, it is desirable among users to provide a mechanism for quickly removing an electronic device from a PC having a smaller case or installing the same therein by utilizing the existing construction of PC in order to overcome the above drawbacks of the prior art.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is to provide a mechanism for quickly removing or installing an electronic device to or from a PC having a smaller case, which is able to overcome the above drawbacks of the prior art and effectively solve the problems of tedious and time consuming process of removing an electronic device from the PC having a smaller case or installing the same therein within the narrow internal space of the PC through using a plurality of screws in fastening the electronic device in a conformed frame of the computer case and avoid other electronic devices in the PC from being damaged in the processes.

An object of the present invention is to provide a mechanism for quickly removing an electronic device from a PC having a smaller case. The mechanism comprises a slot in the PC, the slot including one or more recesses

at either side, a tray for containing the electronic device (e.g., hard disk) adapted to insert into the slot through a front opening of the slot wherein one or more snapping members on either side of the tray are adapted to snap into one or more recesses on the slot. In an operation of removing the electronic device
5 from the PC, a user may pull a first clinging member of a pivotal gate at the front opening of the slot to open a gate upward. Next, the hand of the user may hold a handle of the tray to quickly pull the tray toward the front opening of the slot. By utilizing the present invention, it is possible to quickly remove the electronic device from the PC without being hindered by the narrow internal
10 space of the PC. As an end, the drawbacks of being impossible of quickly removing the electronic device from the PC and installing the same therein as experienced by the prior art can be overcome.

The above and other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following detailed description taken
15 with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is an exploded view of a mechanism according to the invention;

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of FIG. 1, the mechanism being shown during
20 mounting;

FIG. 3 is a perspective view illustrating the snapping arrangement of the invention; and

FIG. 4 is a perspective view illustrating the removal of an electronic device from the computer case.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Referring to FIGS. 1, 2, 3, and 4, there is shown a mechanism for quickly removing an electronic device from a parallelepiped PC having a smaller case

(hereinafter referred to as computer) 1 in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention. The mechanism comprises a slot 10, a tray 20, and a gate 30 all contained in the computer 1 (see FIG. 1). One or more recesses 11 (two are shown) are formed at either side. In other words, there are two recesses 11 at one side of the slot 10 and there are two recesses 11 at the other side thereof. An opening 110 is formed at a top portion of the side and is extended downward, rearward at the same side to form the recess 11. The slot 10 further comprises a front opening 12 and a latch 121 at a corner adjacent the front opening 12.

10 In the embodiment, the tray 20 is adapted to insert into the slot 10 through the front opening 12. The tray 20 is shaped as an inverted U. The opening of the tray 20 is adapted to receive an electronic device 40. In the embodiment, the electronic device 40 is a hard disk. A plurality of screws 401 are driven through both sides of the tray 20 to fasten the electronic device 40 therein (see FIG. 1). A snapping surface 21 is formed on either side of the tray 20. One or more snapping members 211 (two are shown) are formed on the snapping surface 21. At least one snapping member 211 of either snapping surface 21 is adapted to allow the tray 20 to insert into the slot 10 by sliding along the openings 110 of at least one recess 11 on the slot 10 (see FIGS. 1 and 3). Further, the tray 20 is completely, stably fastened in the slot 10 after being snapped at the closed ends of the recesses 11.

Moreover, one or more inverted L-shaped conductive members 212 (two are shown) are formed at a junction of either snapping surface 21 and a top 201 of the tray 20 wherein the junction of either snapping surface is perpendicular to the top 201 of the tray 20 (see FIG. 1). The provision of the conductive members 212 at the junction of either snapping surface 21 and the top 201 of the tray 20 makes it possible of being electrically grounded with respect to a cover (not shown) of the computer 1, one side of the tray 20, and

the internal electronic device 40. This configuration has the advantage of prolonging the useful life of the electronic device 40.

In addition, a handle 22 is formed at a front side between two snapping surfaces 21 of the tray 20 (see FIG. 1). In use, the hand 50 of a user may hold the handle 22 to quickly remove the tray 20 from the slot 10 or install the same therein (see FIG. 4). Moreover, a cavity 213 is formed at one snapping surface 21 of the tray 20 adjacent the handle 22 (see FIGS. 1 and 4).

In the embodiment, the gate 30 is elongated and comprises a top plate 31 (see FIG. 1). The top plate 31 has a pivot shaft 311 and an adjacent resilient latch member 312 both at one end and a first clinging member 32 and a second clinging member 33 at the other end thereof (see FIG. 2). The pivot shaft 311 is pivotably provided at a pivot hole 13 at a front side of the slot 10 (see FIGS. 1 and 2). A hole 131 is provided at one side of the pivot hole 13 and another hole 132 is provided at the other side of the pivot hole 13 respectively in which the distance from one hole 131 to the pivot hole 13 is the same as that from the other hole 132 to the pivot hole 13. As such, the pivot shaft 311 of the gate 30 is able to pivot about the pivot hole 13 in opening or closing the gate 30. Also, two sides of the resilient latch member 312 are snapped into the holes 131 and 132 respectively for positioning. The first clinging member 32 is snapped into the latch 121 at one side of the slot 10 when the gate 30 is closed. Hence, the first clinging member 32 and the second clinging member 33 of the gate 30 are urged against the latch 121 of the slot 10 and the cavity 213 of the tray 20 respectively. As an end, the tray 20 is reliably fastened in the slot 10.

By configuring as above, in a case of removing the electronic device 40 from the computer 1 for replacement or upgrading, a user may sequentially detach the case of the computer 1, pull the first clinging member 32 of the gate 30 to disengage the latch 121 of the slot 10 and the second clinging member 33 from the cavity 213 of the tray 20. Also, pivot the gate 30 about the pivot

shaft 311 for opening the gate 30 upward (see FIGS. 2 and 4). Thus, the hand 50 of a user may hold the handle 22 of the tray 20 to quickly pull the tray 20 toward the front opening 12 of the slot 10. At this time, at least one snapping member 211 on the snapping surface 21 of the tray 20 has disengaged from at least one recess 11 on the slot 10 and further is removed from the opening 110 by sliding. In such a manner, it is possible of quickly removing the tray 20 from the slot 10 either for replacing the electronic device 40 with a new one or for upgrading. Hence, the purpose of quickly removing the electronic device 40 from the computer 1 without being hindered by the narrow internal space of the computer 1 is achieved. As an end, the drawbacks of being impossible of quickly removing the electronic device 40 from the computer 1 and installing the same therein as experienced by the prior art can be overcome.

While the invention has been described by means of specific embodiments, numerous modifications and variations could be made thereto by those skilled in the art without departing from the scope and spirit of the invention set forth in the claims.